

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TRIPOL 00598 300652Z

64

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /057 W

----- 091731

R 291330Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3235

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0598

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, LY, AG

SUBJECT: LIBYAN/ALGERIAN RELATIONS

1. DURING CALL BY ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR BEN MUSTAFA BEN OUDA IN TRIPOLI LATTER SPOKE EXTENSIVELY AND WITH APPARENT FRANKNESS ABOUT ALGERIAN/LIBYAN RELATIONS. HE SAID THERE HAD BEEN NO FURTHER DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES OVER THE PROPOSED UNION INITIATIVE FOR WHICH CAME ENTIRELY FROM QADHAFI. ALGERIA, HE ADDED, HAD NO REAL INTEREST IN PROPOSAL, HE FURTHER OBSERVED THAT NATIONALISM OF INDIVIDUAL ARAB COUNTRIES NOW SUFFICIENTLY ADVANCED TO PRECLUDE THE TYPE OF UNION ENVISAGED BY QADHAFI.

2. HE ASSERTED THAT COL QADHAFI IS VERY BADLY INFORMED AND FREQUENTLY DISPLAYED THIS IN HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH FOREIGN VISITORS. HE ATTRIBUTED THIS TO THE POOR QUALITY OF HIS ADVISORS AND ERRATIC WORK HABITS. THE AMBASSADOR SAID HE WAS CONTINUALLY AMAZED BY THE PROBLEMS THAT THE QADHAFI REGIME SEEMED TO CREATE FOR ITSELF COMMENTING THAT IF QADHAFI COULD JUST KEEP QUIET FOR A MONTH OR TWO MANY OF LIBYA'S PROBLEMS INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL MIGHT DISAPPEAR. HE CONDEMNED LIBYA'S HARSH ATTITUDE TOWARD TUNISIA
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SINCE LATTER REPRESENTED NO THREAT TO LIBYA.

3. COMMENT: IF THE AMBASSADOR REFLECTS ATTITUDE
OF HIS GOVERNMENT AND, ONE PRESUMES HE DOES,
THE FUTURE COURSE OF LIBYA/ALGERIAN RELATIONS
WILL NOT BE SMOOTH.
CARLE

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NNN

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